

SYN. NO. _____

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MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND
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The use of methamphetamine (meth) has been on the rise across the nation including Los Angeles County, becoming the leading drug of choice for people admitted into substance abuse treatment facilities. In 2005, the Department of Public Health's Alcohol and Drug Program Administration surveyed county-contracted service providers and found that 33% of the providers reporting 50% or more of their clients as primary meth users.

While the meth epidemic is present across the population, specific segments of the population have acutely been affected by meth use. According to the *Los Angeles Men's Survey 2004* conducted by the Department of Public Health's HIV Epidemiology Program, 72% of men who have sex with men (MSM) who used crystal meth had unprotected anal sex in the past 12 months and 26% of MSM who tested HIV-positive reported crystal meth use. Furthermore, among the Latino MSM who received a new HIV-positive diagnosis, 59% reported use of crystal meth in the past 12 months. Additional studies and anecdotal evidence suggest a strong link between meth use and high-risk sexual behaviors that may be contributing to the increase in HIV infections and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as syphilis, in both MSM and heterosexual

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communities.

In response to the meth epidemic, the Department of Public Health convened the Methamphetamine Work Group in August 2005. This group is comprised of representatives from community service agencies, academic research centers, local cities and various county departments. The County must expand the group's efforts in addressing the meth epidemic, as a serious public health and mental health issue.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Department of Public Health's Alcohol and Drug Program Administration and the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy and the Department of Mental Health to report back in 90 days on a comprehensive strategy for meth use prevention and intervention. The report shall include an overview of meth use in Los Angeles County and best practices for preventing meth use and treating meth users, particularly within targeted populations such as communities of color.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board instruct the County advocates to identify and support legislation that will fund and expand the County's research and prevention and treatment efforts on meth addiction.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board instruct the Department of Public Health to expand the membership of the Methamphetamine Work Group to include additional advocates against crystal meth use, including community service agencies serving at-risk populations.